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# Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy Five Year Strategic Plan

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January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2025



## Overview

The Office of the Drug Policy Coordinator is established in Chapter 80E of the Code of Iowa. The Coordinator directs the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy; coordinates and monitors all statewide counter-drug efforts, substance abuse treatment grants and programs, and substance abuse prevention and education programs; and engages in other related activities involving the departments of public safety, corrections, education, public health, and human services. The coordinator also engages private sector organizations and citizens, and assists in the development of local and community strategies to fight substance abuse, including local law enforcement, prevention, and treatment activities.

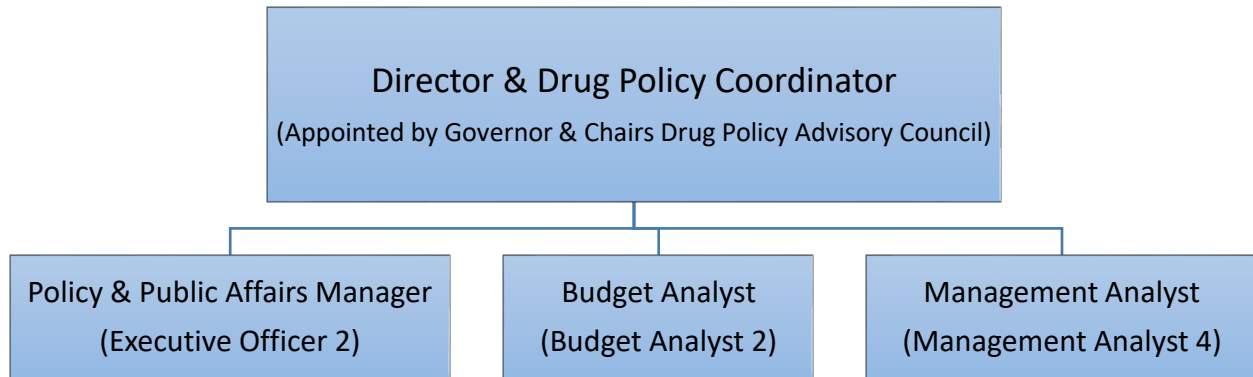
The Drug Policy Coordinator serves as chairperson of the Drug Policy Advisory Council. Statutory members of the council includes the directors of the departments of corrections, education, public health, public safety, human services, division of criminal and juvenile justice planning within the department of human rights. The Council also consists of a prosecuting attorney, substance abuse treatment specialist, substance abuse prevention specialist, substance abuse treatment program director, judge, and one representative each from the Iowa Peace Officers Association, the Iowa State Police Association, and the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association. Council members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Non-voting members include representatives of the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division, the Iowa Police Chiefs Association, the Iowa National Guard, the Iowa Behavioral Health Association, and the Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation.

The council makes policy recommendations related to substance abuse education, prevention, and treatment, and drug enforcement. The Council and the Coordinator oversee the development and implementation of an annual comprehensive State of Iowa Drug Control Strategy.

The Office of Drug Control Policy administers federal grant programs directed at reducing the threat of illegal drugs to Iowans. Iowa ODCP aims to improve the criminal justice system and community drug/crime control efforts by supporting drug enforcement, substance abuse prevention and offender treatment programs across the state. Iowa ODCP collaborates with others to tackle emerging challenges, including new and more potent forms of addictive substance. The ODCP also provides program and fiscal assistance to state and local agencies, as well as program evaluation and grants management.

## Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy

### Table of Organization – January 2021



### Mission Statement

To coordinate substance use related criminal justice resourcing and policy development.

### Vision Statement

Safe and healthy lowans.

## Assessment

The Office of Drug Control Policy is a small executive branch agency with the flexibility to minimize bureaucracy and maximize accountability. This provides a consumer and constituent-friendly environment conducive to customer service and the collaborative development of strategies to respond efficiently to emerging needs.

ODCP's independent status allows it to focus on drug control priorities that span multiple jurisdictions, disciplines, agencies and sectors. While working with several public and private sector entities to coordinate policies and programs that address the complexities of substance abuse and drug trafficking, ODCP also administers federal grant funds in a highly credible and fundamentally fair manner for all eligible local and state agencies, as well as other public, private and tribal organizations.

ODCP takes a leadership role in alerting the public to important and timely drug control issues, such as the emergence of prescription and over-the-counter medicine misuse, as well as sudden and fast-changing developments surrounding synthetic hybrid substances and the dangers they pose to users. ODCP, by virtue of its coordination of all drug control efforts in Iowa, is also a reliable information source for citizens and policy makers.

## Goals with Measures

### Goal

Enhance coordination and provide leadership and education to improve Iowa's response to drug use, and related crime.

### Measures

- State rank in overall rate of past month illegal drug use
- State rank in substance abuse treatment clients with methamphetamine as primary drug of abuse
- Number of drug related prison admissions
- Percent of students self-reporting current drug use
- Percent of students self-reporting current alcohol use
- Percent of students self-reporting current e-cigarette/vape use
- Number of opioid-related overdose deaths
- Number of drug-related traffic fatalities
- Amount of unused medications collected in prescription drug take-backs efforts

### Goal

Improve the ability of state and local government, and private partners to enforce drug laws and provide substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

### Measures

- Percent of Iowa counties served by performance based ODCP initiatives
- Percent of Iowa counties served by ODCP grant funded multi-jurisdictional drug task forces

- Percent of Iowans completing treatment who became gainfully employed
- Percent of federal grant project and financial reports submitted in compliance with state and federal regulations

## Strategies

ODCP executes a comprehensive annual statewide drug control strategy to coordinate efforts and enhance coordination of resources between state, federal, local and other agencies. The Iowa Drug Control Strategy serves as a comprehensive blueprint for coordinated state and local substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and drug enforcement. The 2021 Iowa Drug Control Strategy reports both progress and challenges in the state. The progress includes relatively low rates of illicit drug use. Among the challenges are higher rates of methamphetamine use.

As new threats emerge, part of our strength lies in the flexibility we have to quickly acknowledge and react to them. Working together in prevention, treatment, and enforcement we can strengthen our efforts as we face current and emerging substance use disorder issues in our state. Whether it's health care or law enforcement professionals, community coalition members, teachers, students, parents, or family members, shared efforts in this important area will make a difference in the lives of all Iowans.

## Action Plan

ODCP will continue strategically coordinating efforts among state, federal, and local agencies, as well as private-sector organizations, for successful and efficient reductions in substance use and related problems in Iowa.

ODCP will also leverage and administer federal grant funds and other resources to strengthen local and state drug enforcement and treatment efforts focusing primarily on criminal offenders in Iowa, and enhance substance abuse prevention at the community level.

## Substance Abuse Prevention

The use of drugs and abuse of alcohol has a devastating impact on the safety and well-being of all Iowans. Preventing drug use before it begins and changing attitudes are cost-effective ways to build safe and healthy communities.

Substance abuse prevention consists of a wide array of prevention programming customized for delivery in schools, businesses and communities to stop risky behavior by Iowa youth before it starts and to help reduce the misuse of drugs by adult Iowans. The cumulative effect of many efforts over the last decade, including substance abuse prevention, has resulted in significant declines in alcohol and tobacco use by Iowa youth, and maintaining relatively low rates of illicit drug use, as evidenced by responses to the Iowa Department of Public Health's (IDPH) biennial Iowa Youth Survey.

## Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Effective treatment addresses addiction issues and has a long-term positive impact on the individual drug user, their family and the community-at-large. Treatment must be comprehensive, tailored, evidence-

based, and multi-systemic. Studies have shown that substance use disorder treatment reduces not only drug use but related crime as well. Iowans are safer when offenders returning to their communities have completed treatment.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment effectively works to reduce relapse and arrest, decrease hospitalizations, increase employment and reduce costs. There are many proven and developing paths to recovery from substance use disorders, and specialized treatment (e.g., Drug Courts, other specialty courts, Jail-Based treatment, co-occurring substance use/mental health disorder programs, opioid-related Medication Assisted Treatment, pre/post arrest diversion to treatment, etc.) can also be effective. The IDPH oversees more than 120 licensed substance use disorder treatment programs and many professionals affiliated with those agencies that serve about 50,000 Iowans annually via a full continuum of care that includes all levels of outpatient services, halfway houses, residential treatment, detoxification and medication assisted treatment.

### Drug Enforcement and Supply Reduction

By reducing illegal drugs in Iowa communities, the cycle of addiction that compromises our communities' health and safety can be broken, and our youth will be much safer. The use of alcohol and other drugs has long been associated with crime and delinquent behavior that disrupts family, neighborhood, and community life in fundamental and long-lasting ways. We are also gaining a better data-informed understanding of the potential traffic safety impacts of drug-impaired driving, even as new detection challenges emerge. People who are abusing alcohol and other drugs are more inclined to commit crimes and pose a public safety threat.

Drug Enforcement is an essential public safety strategy, and one that works with substance abuse prevention and substance use disorder treatment as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing risky behavior and improving the health of Iowans. Enforcement also serves as a form of intervention or referral for those needing help, and empowers adult influencers to educate youth on the risks of substance abuse.

### Aligning with the Governor's Goals

The Office of Drug Control Strategy Five Year Strategic plan aligns with four state goals, that support the Governor's priorities outlined in the 2021 Iowa Condition of the State message: Putting Students First; Innovating Iowa's Workforce; Ensuring, Strong, Safe Communities; and Improving Access to Quality Health Care.

**Putting Students First:** There are many studies that show youth substance use--consisting largely of alcohol, tobacco, vaping and marijuana--can lead to substance use disorders, accidents and poor judgment due to impairment, future drug use, and even reduced learning potential. Effective substance abuse prevention efforts can avert these negative consequences for students, by promoting healthy choices and building brighter futures.

**Innovating Iowa's Workforce:** About one in 10 workers were reportedly dependent on or abused alcohol or drugs in the last year, according to a recent report, and more than a third of U.S. adults received

prescribed opioids last year. Drug control efforts in the workplace are instrumental in creating a safe and productive workforce.

Ensuring Strong, Safe Communities: Public safety is our home base to the quality of life lowans want for their family and communities. Drugs are often involved in criminal activity that can put others in harm's way. Reducing drug use and distribution through up to date and innovative approaches improves the community safety.

Improving Access to Quality Health Care: The availability and potency of many drugs has increased, along with the potential for addiction and/or other harmful effects such as overdose, so too must lowans' access to substance use and mental health disorder treatment services. Six months after lowans completed substance use disorder treatment, research shows a significant decrease in drug use and arrests, and an increase in employment.